

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 January 2001 (04.01.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/01669 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04N 1/00,**
G06F 17/60

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/JP00/04281**

(22) International Filing Date: **29 June 2000 (29.06.2000)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
11/182936 29 June 1999 (29.06.1999) JP
11/353865 14 December 1999 (14.12.1999) JP

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(81) Designated States (national): **CN, KR, US.**

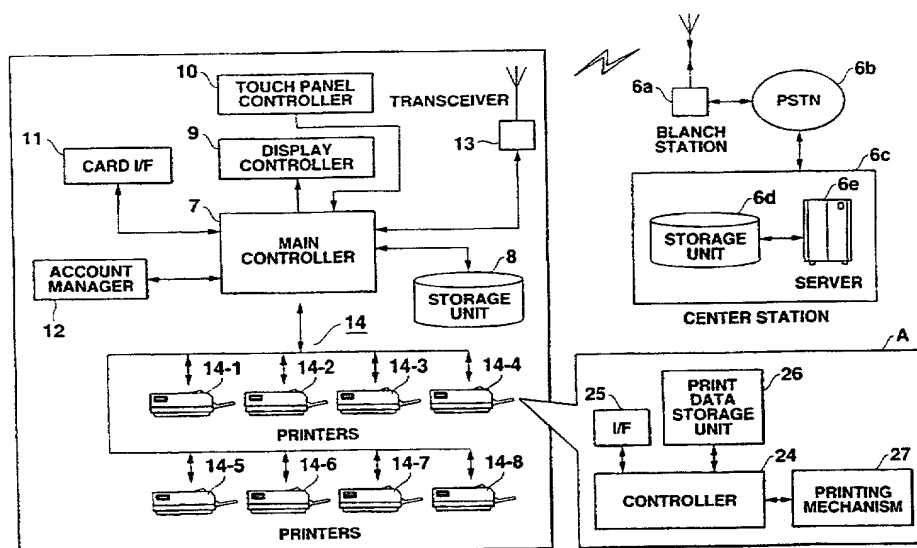
(84) Designated States (regional): **European patent (DE, FR, GB, IT).**

Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **PRINTING APPARATUS AND PRINTING METHOD**



(57) Abstract: A card I/F (11) accepts a recording medium such as a flash memory card storing digital image data. A main controller (7) reads the image data from the recording medium in the card I/F (11). A touch panel controller (10) informs the main controller (7) of unit images designated by a user. The main controller sequentially supplies the designated unit image information and relating image data to 8 printers (14-1 to 14-8) to instruct them to print the images. The printers (14-1 to 14-8) print the designated unit image information for designated quantities. In a case where the user selects free printing through the touch panel controller (10), the main controller (7) synthesizes the designated unit image information with an advertisement image stored in a storage unit (8), and supplies resultant image data to the printers (14-1 to 14-8).

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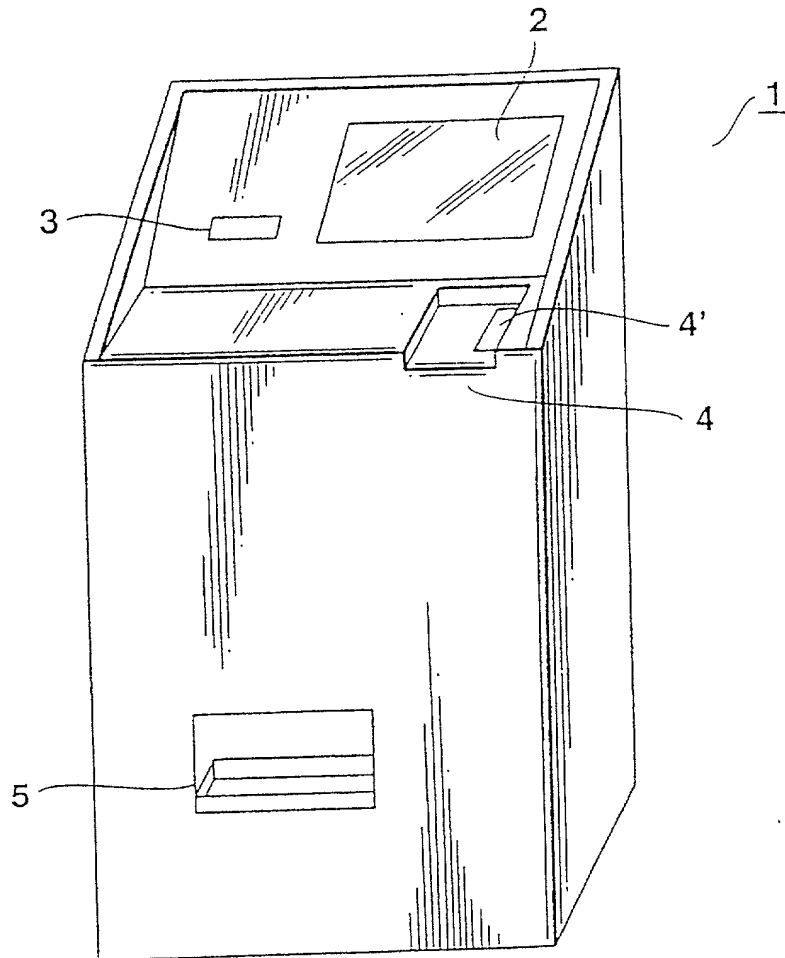


FIG.1

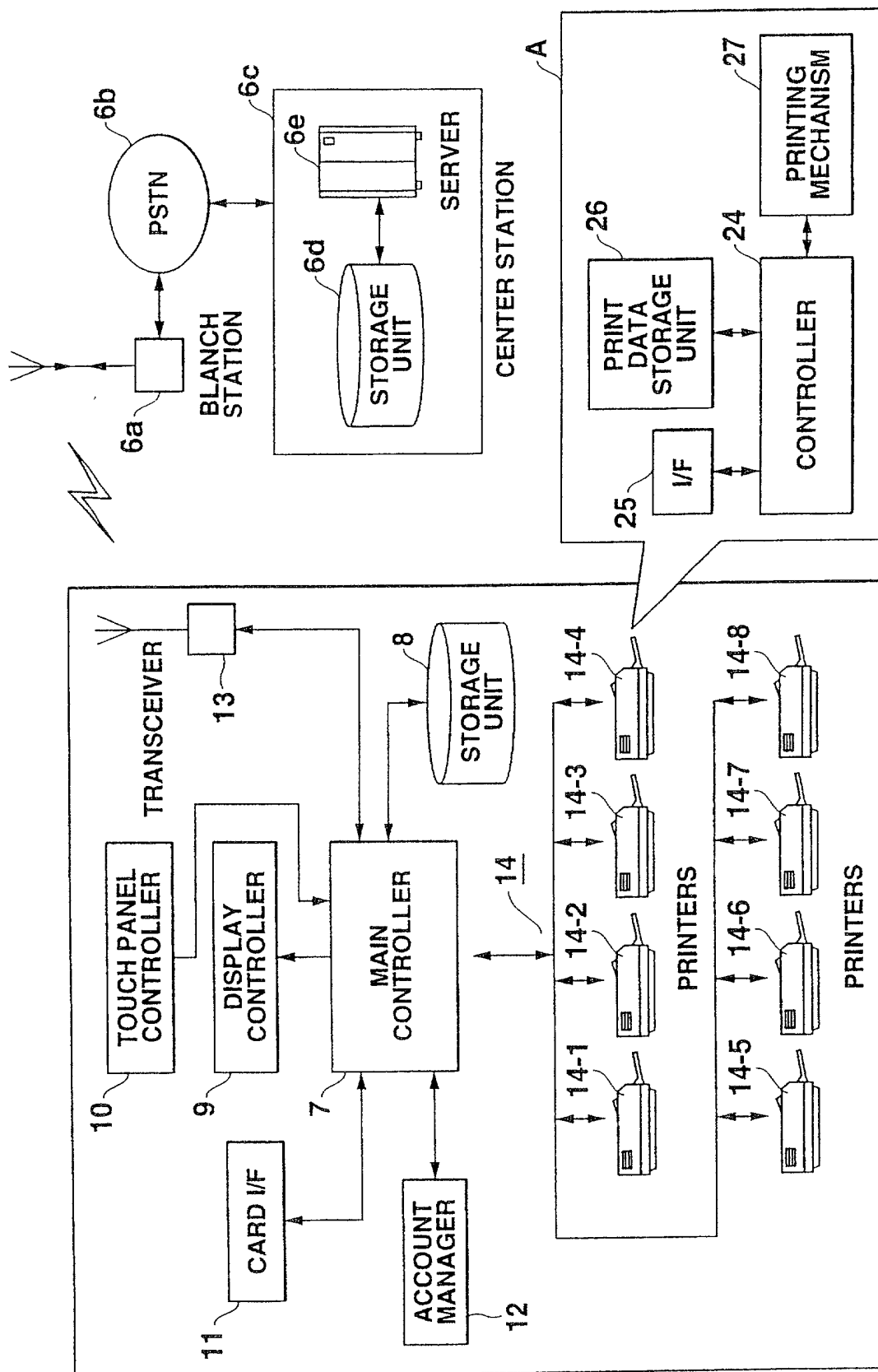


FIG.2

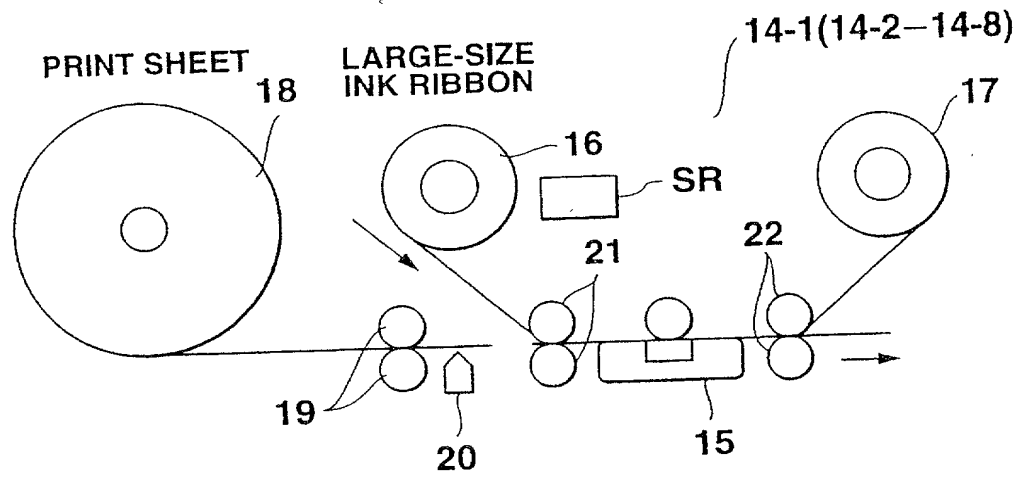


FIG.3

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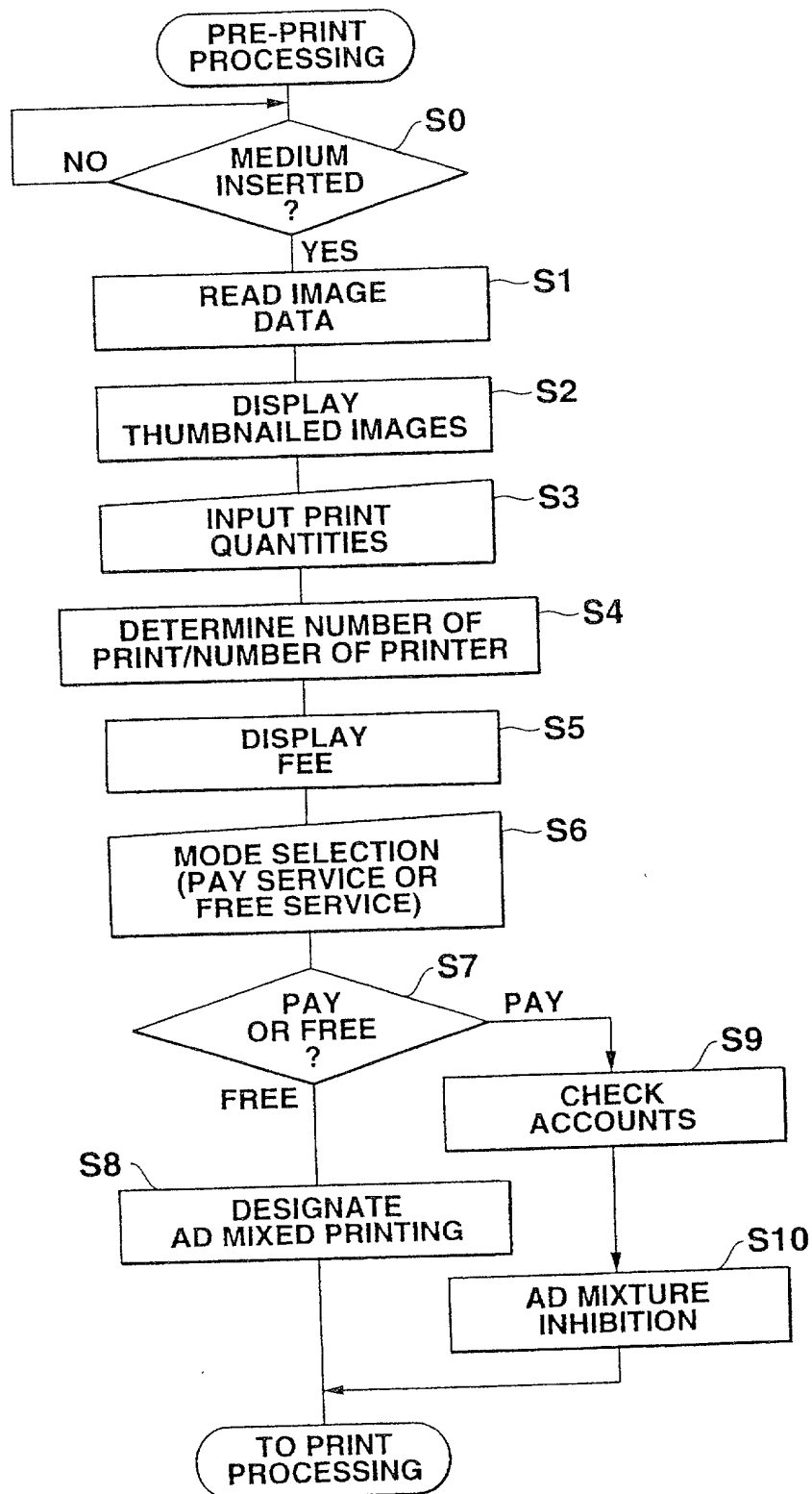


FIG.4

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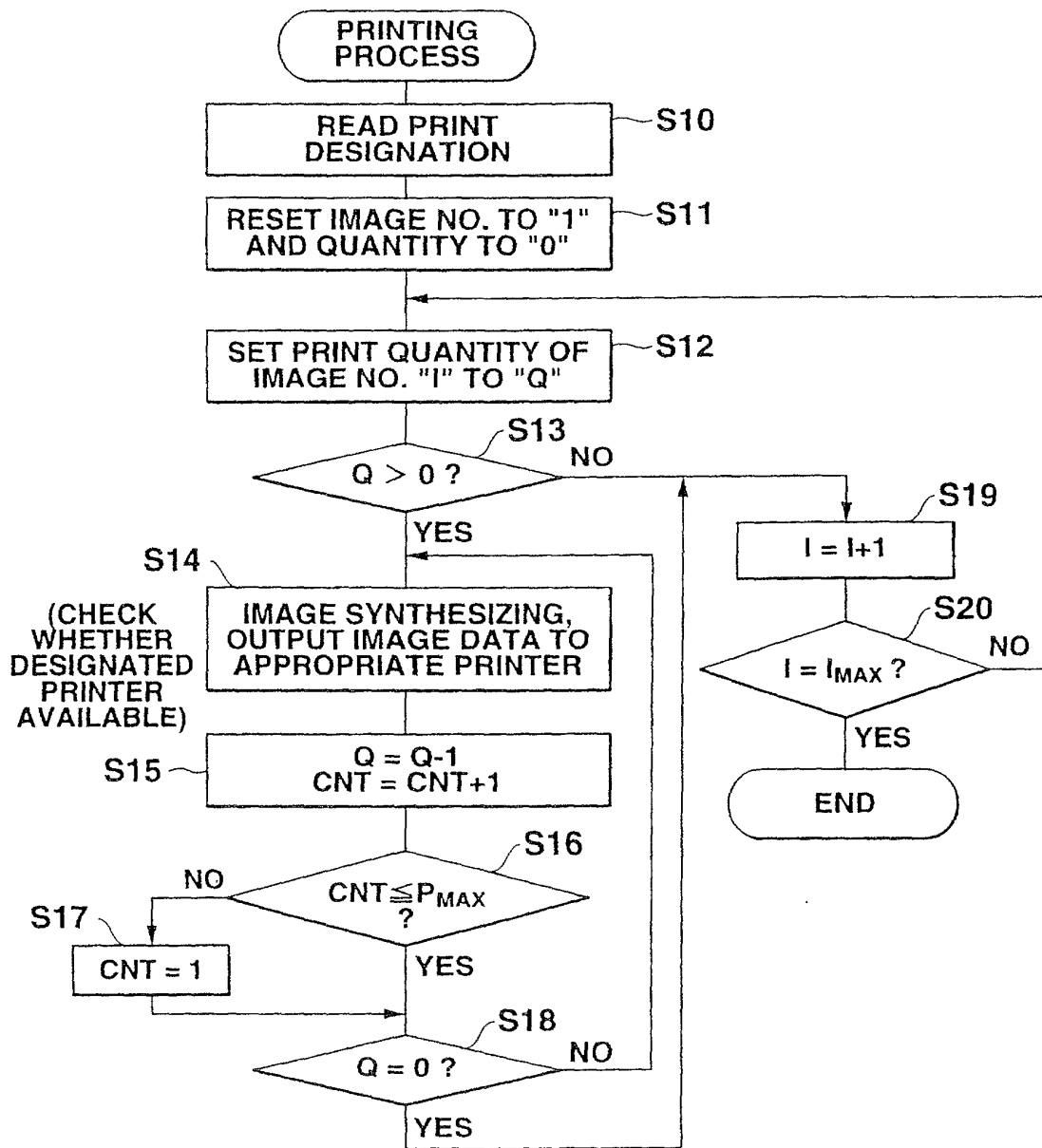


FIG.5

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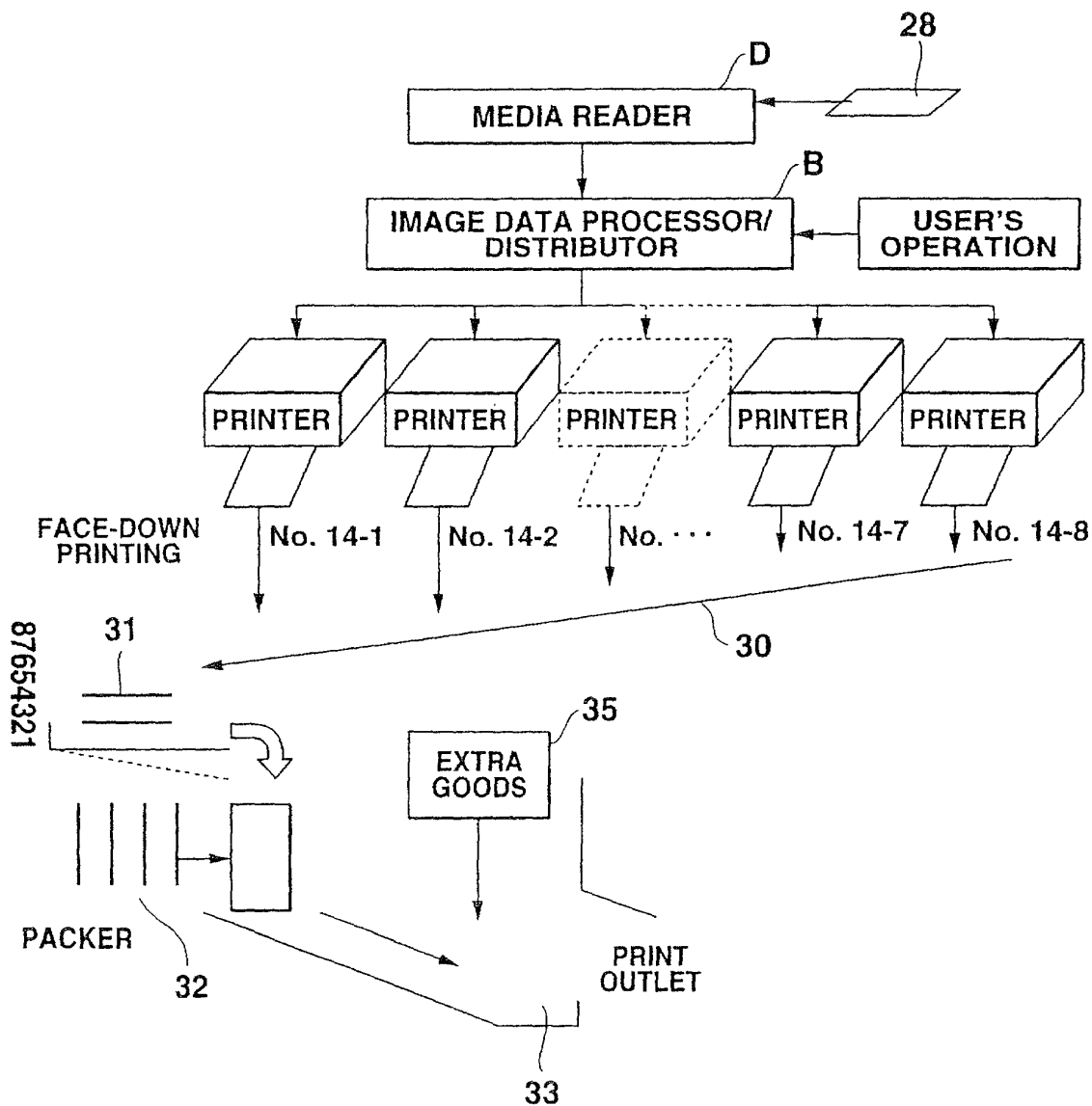


FIG.6

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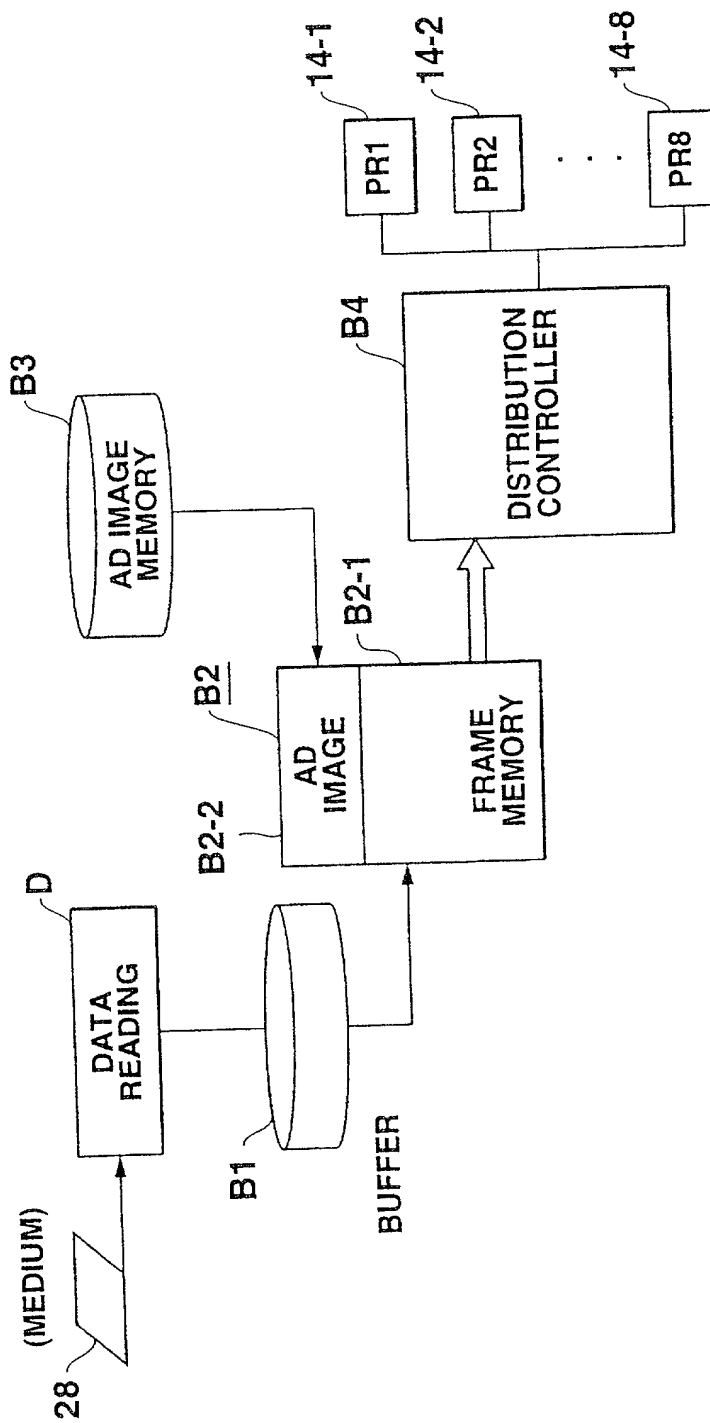


FIG.7

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IMAGE No. (1) : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
PRINT QUANTITY (Q) : 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3 TOTAL 14
DESIGNATED QUANTITY (N) : (14)
AVAILABLE PRINTERS (P_{MAX}) : (8)
COUNTER (CNT) :

FIG.8

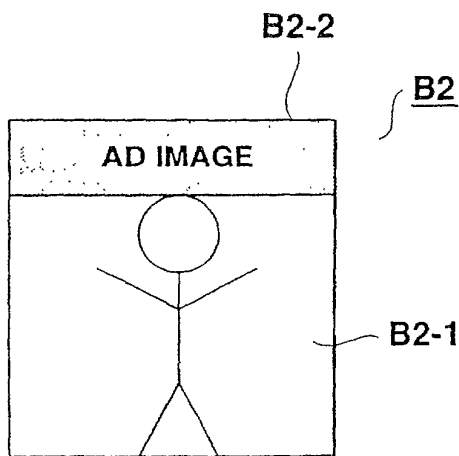


FIG.9

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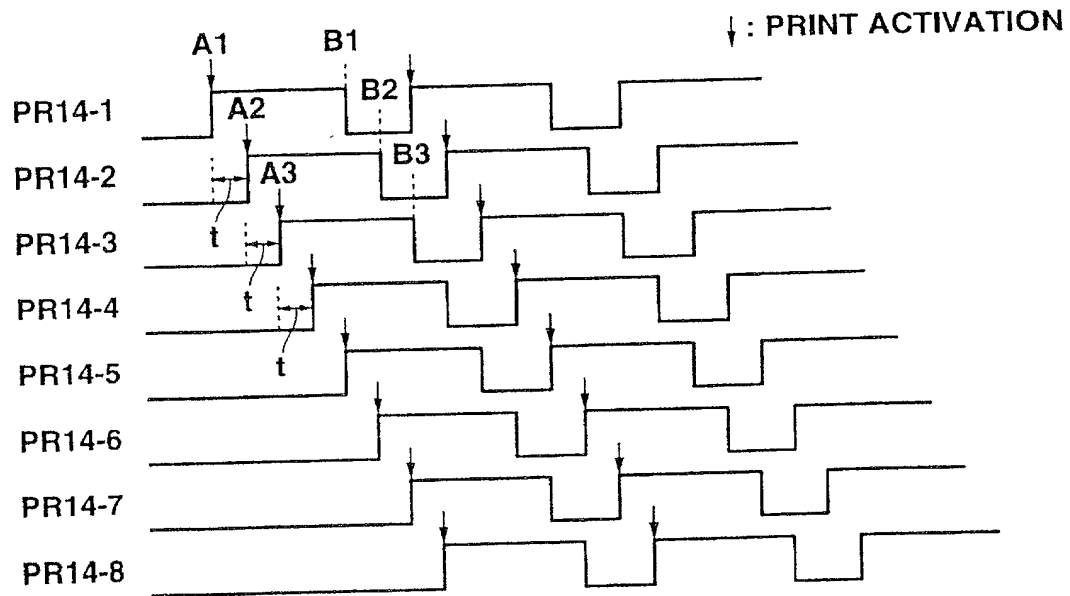


FIG.10

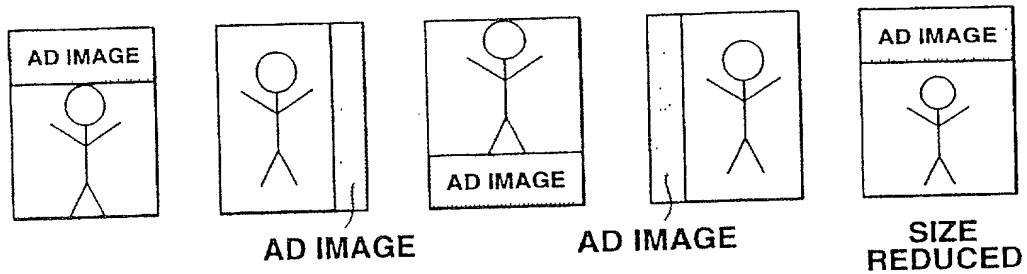
AD IMAGE SYNTHESIZING
(ARRANGEMENT)

FIG.11A FIG.11B FIG.11C FIG.11D FIG.11E

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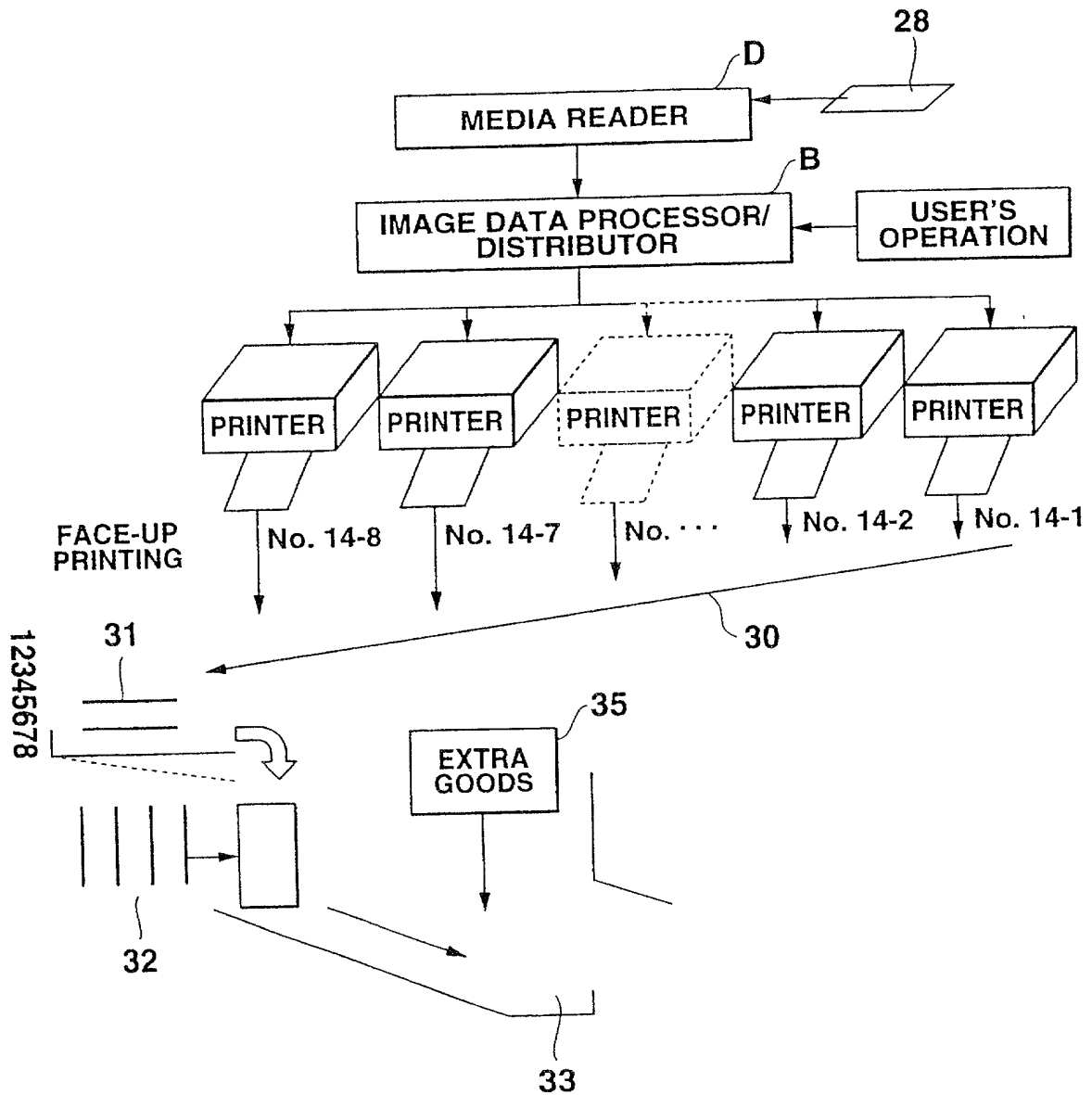


FIG.12

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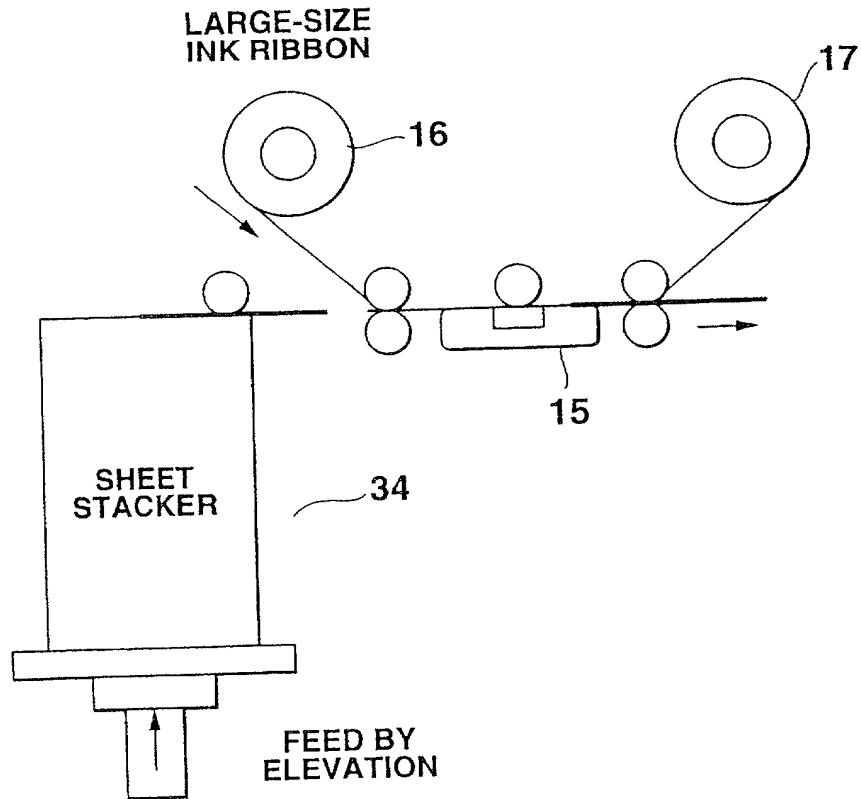


FIG.13

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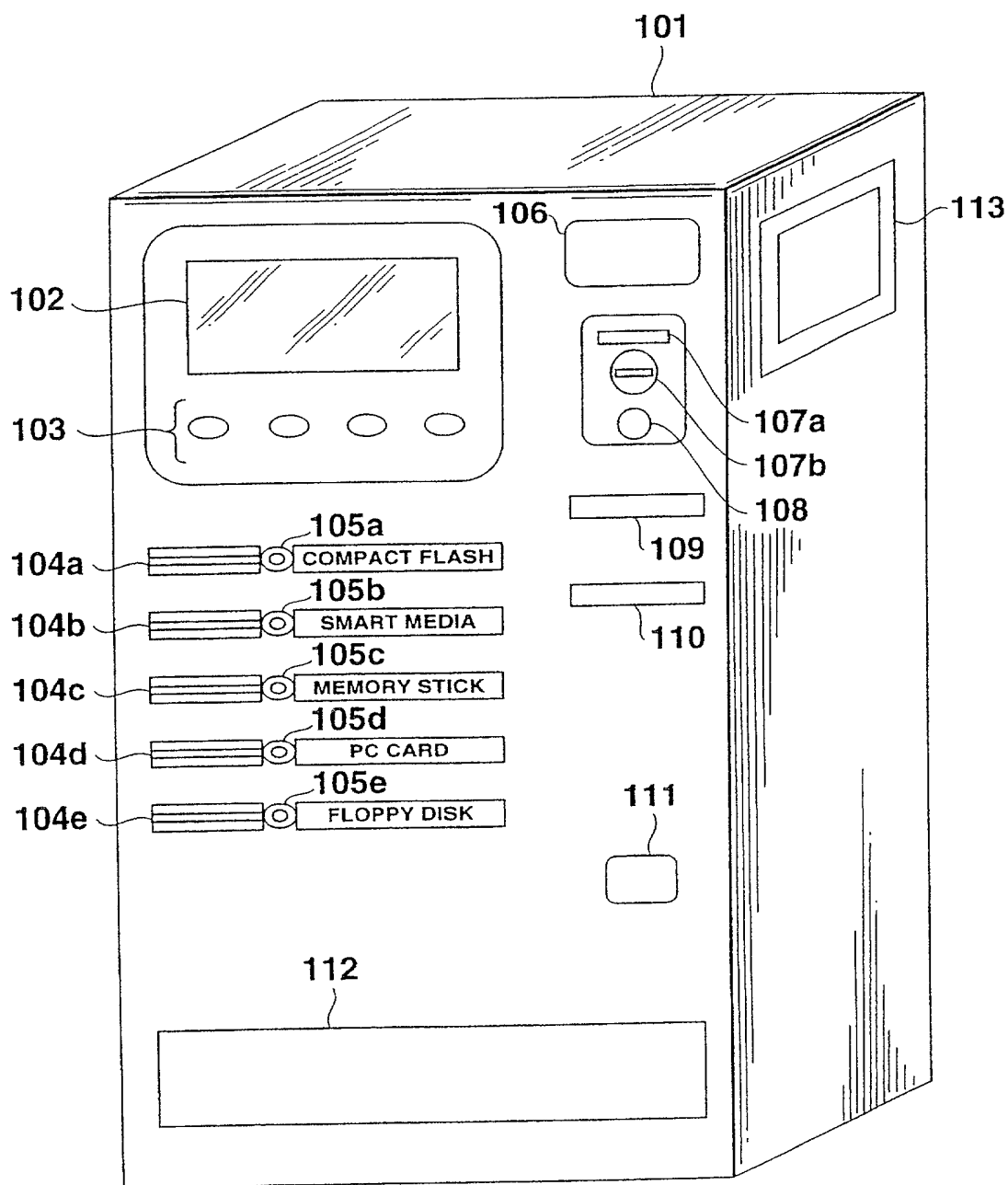


FIG. 14

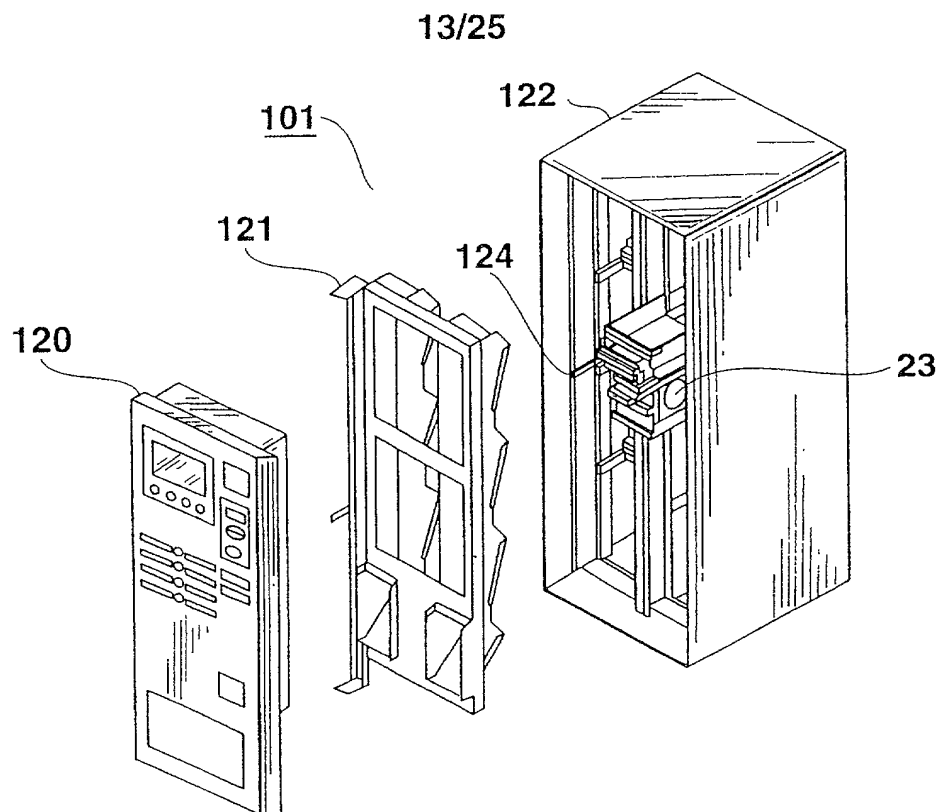


FIG. 15A

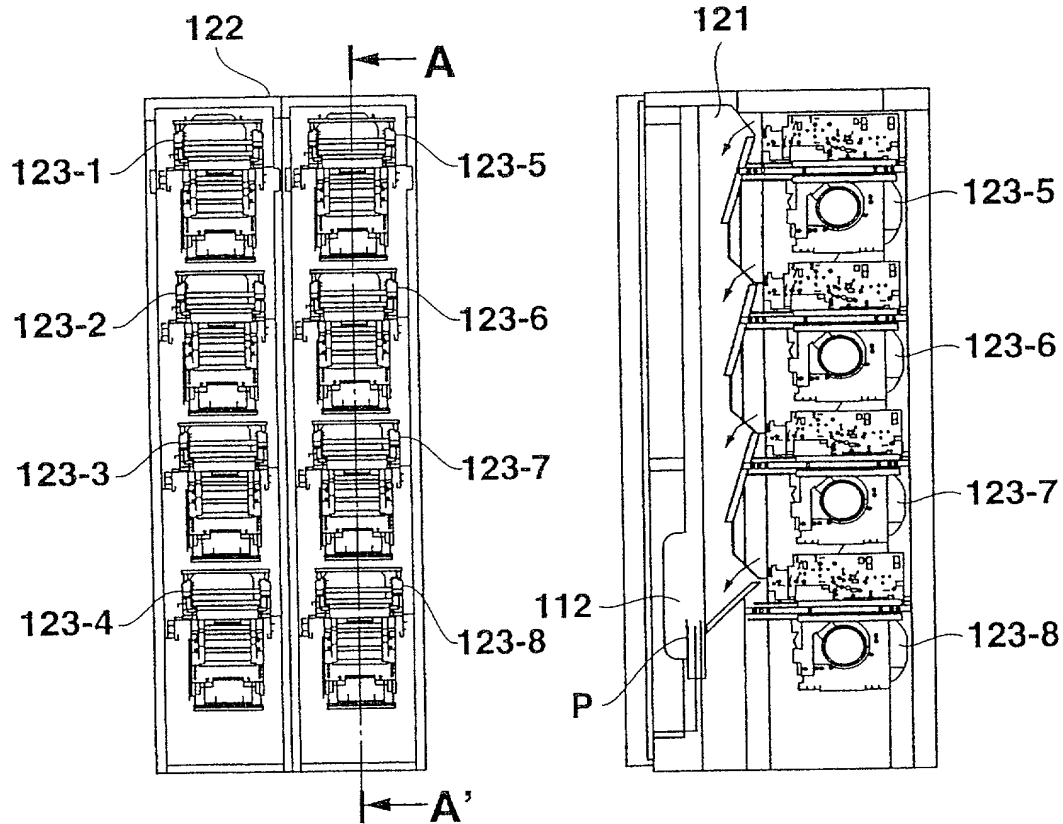


FIG. 15B

FIG. 15C

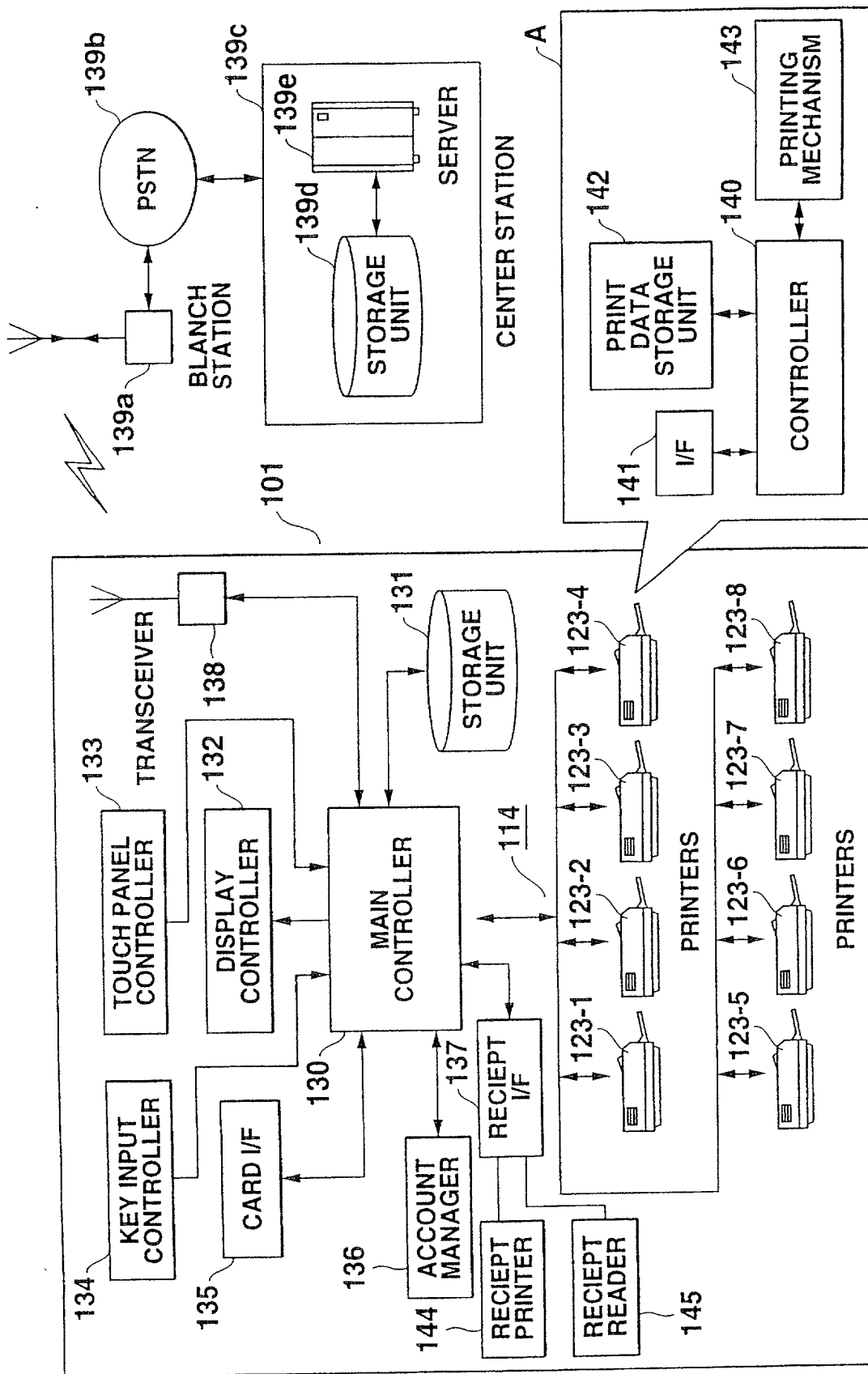
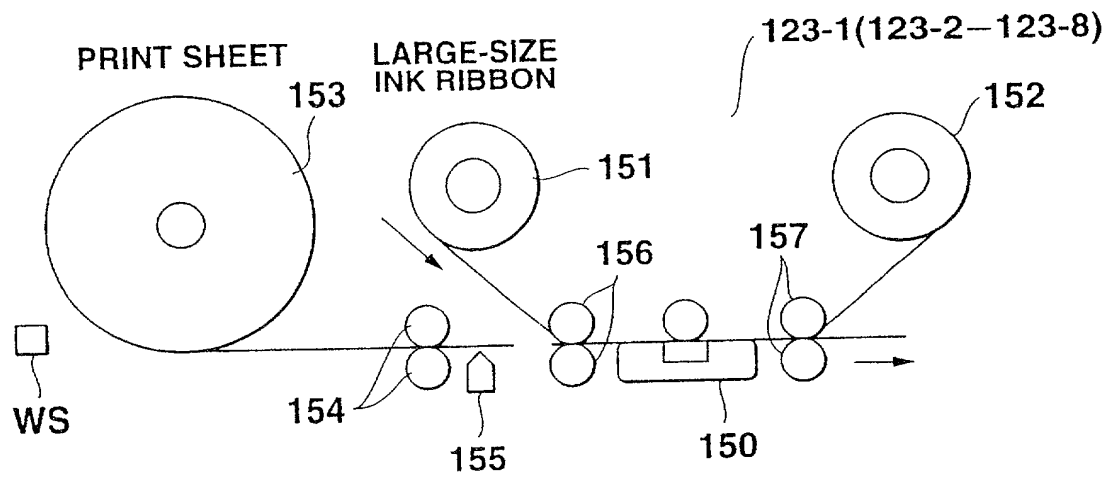


FIG.16

**FIG.17**

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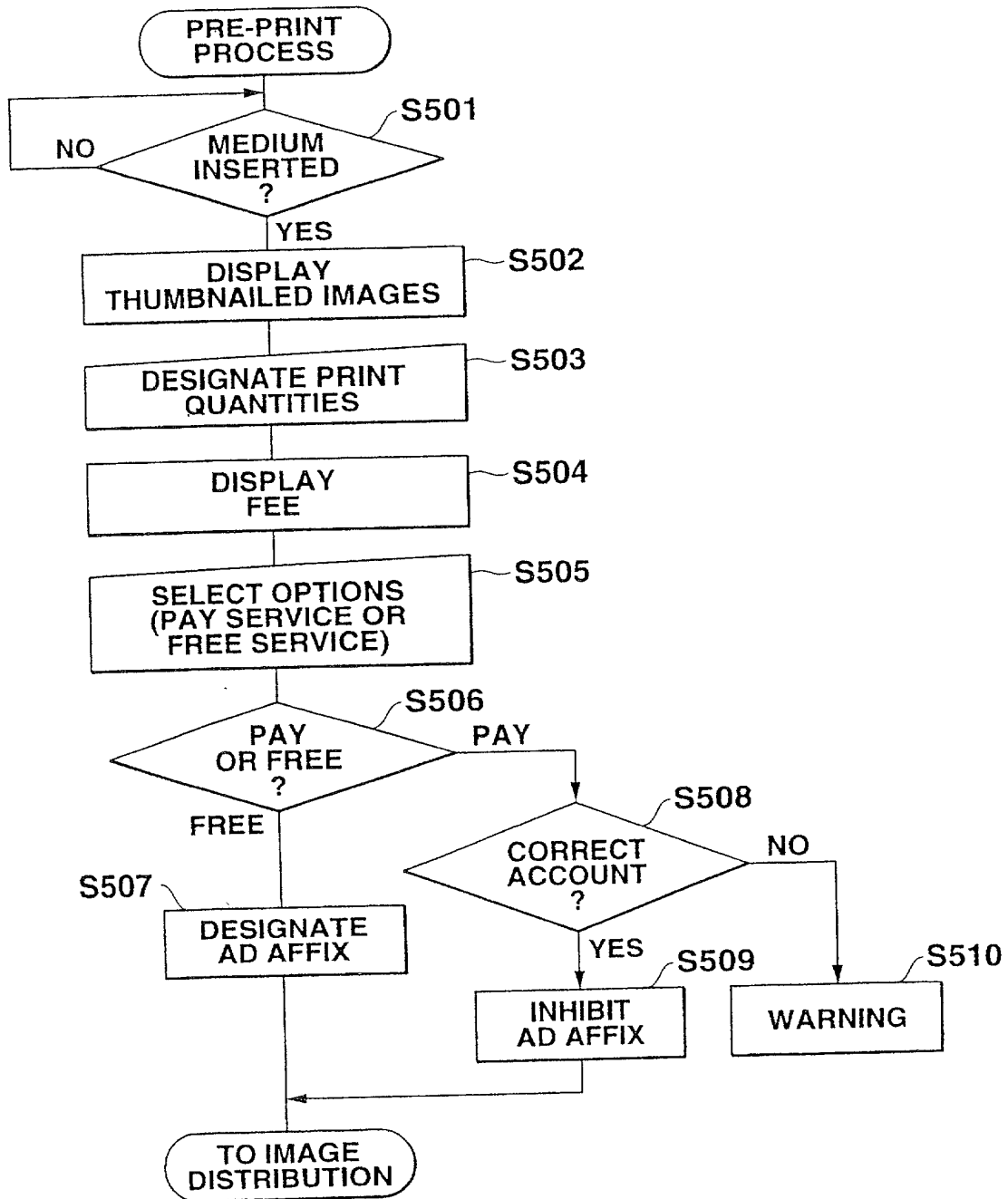


FIG.18

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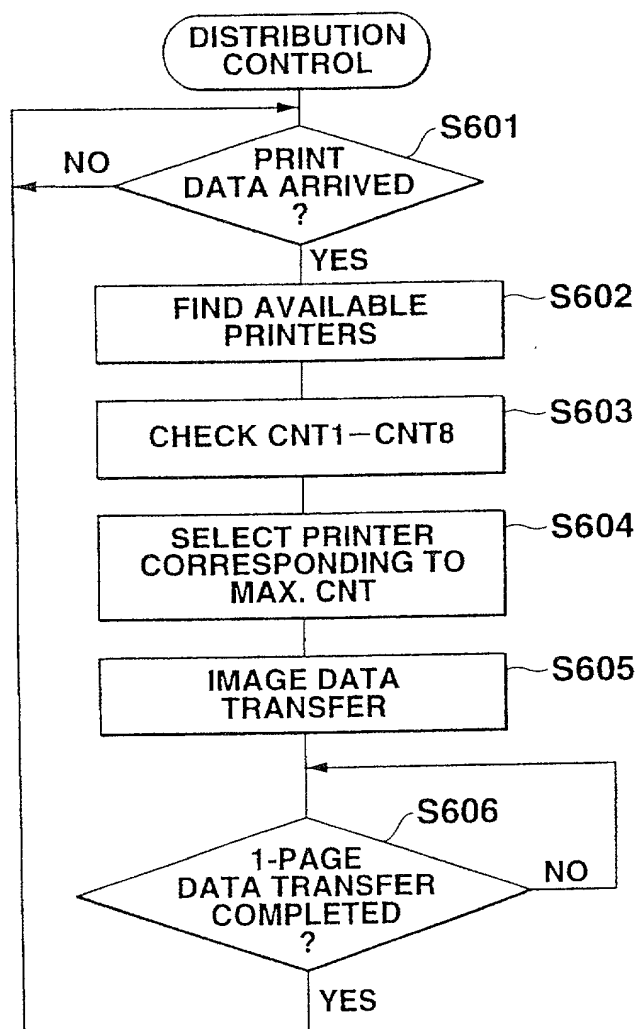


FIG.19

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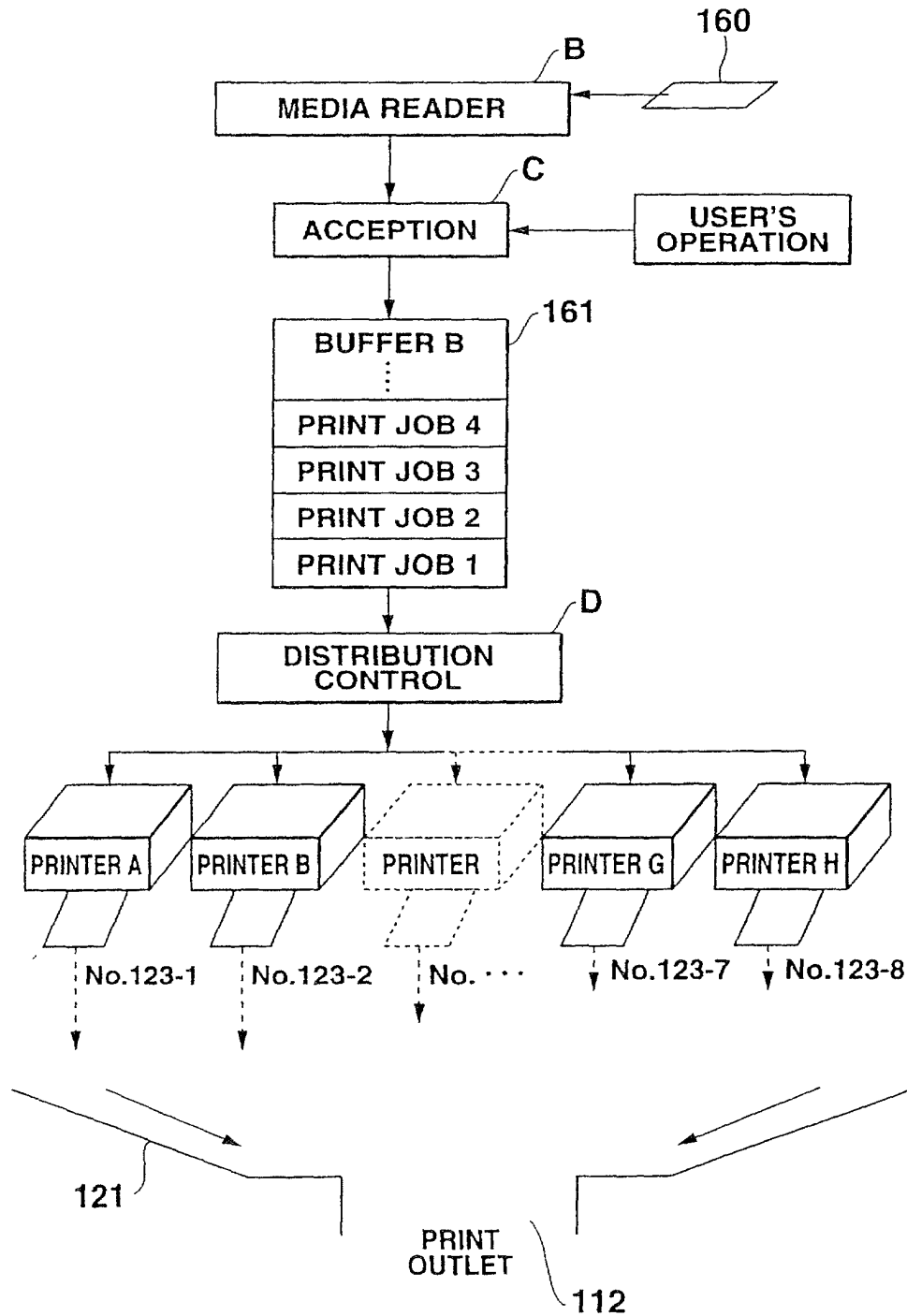


FIG.20

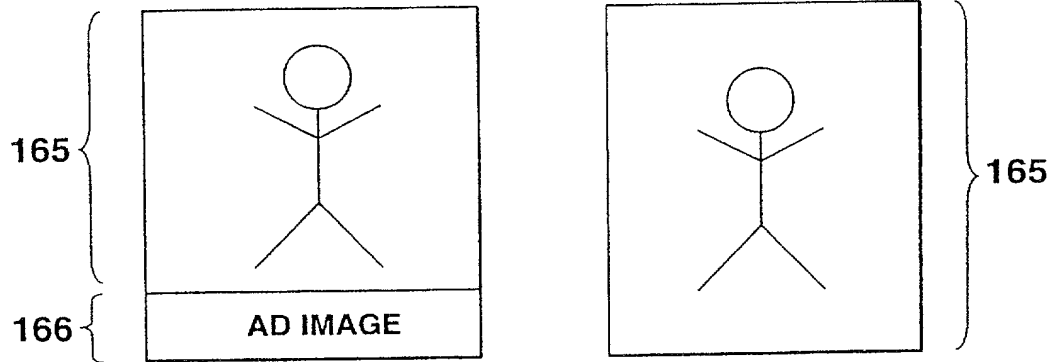


FIG.21A

FIG.21B

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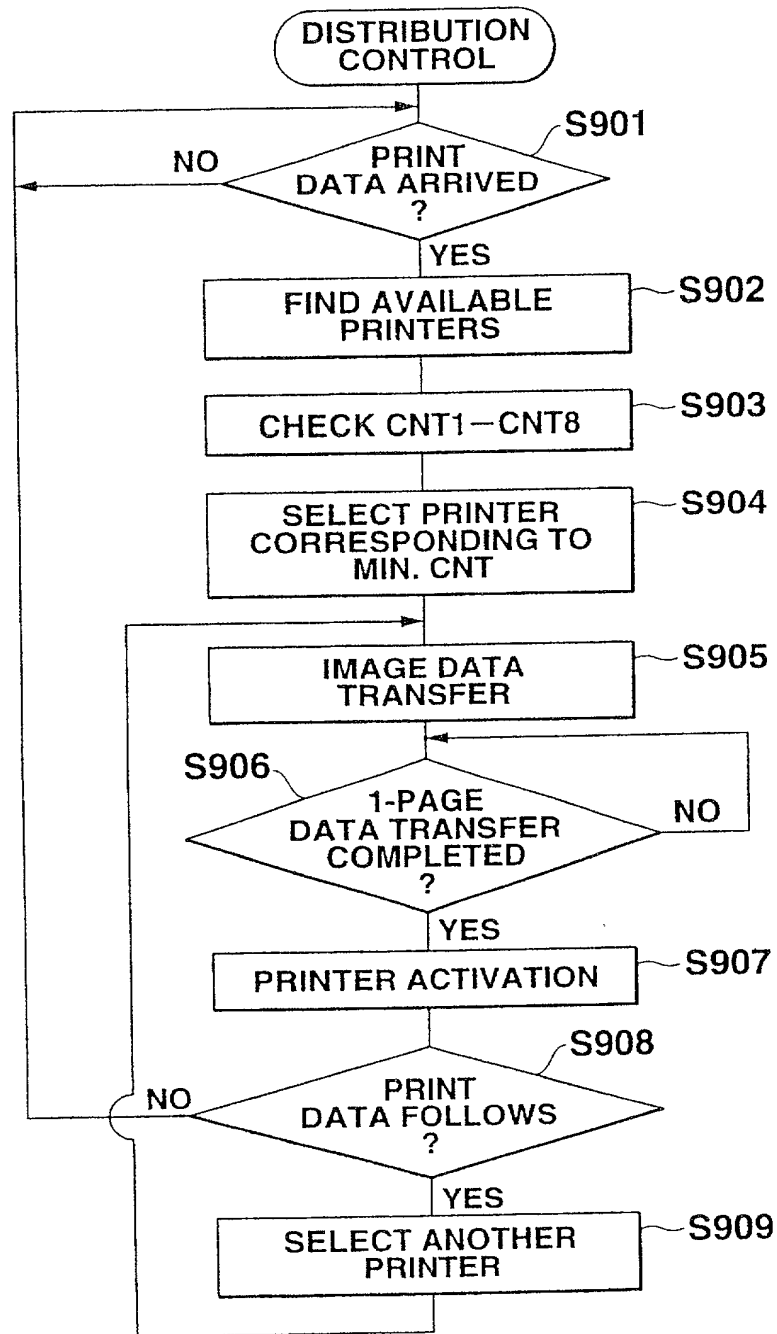


FIG.22

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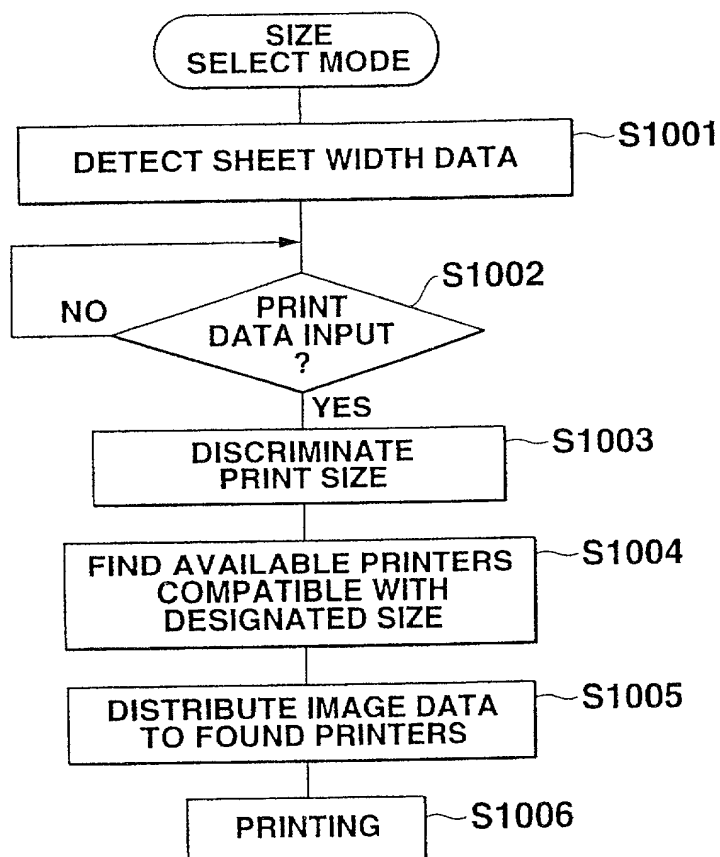


FIG.23

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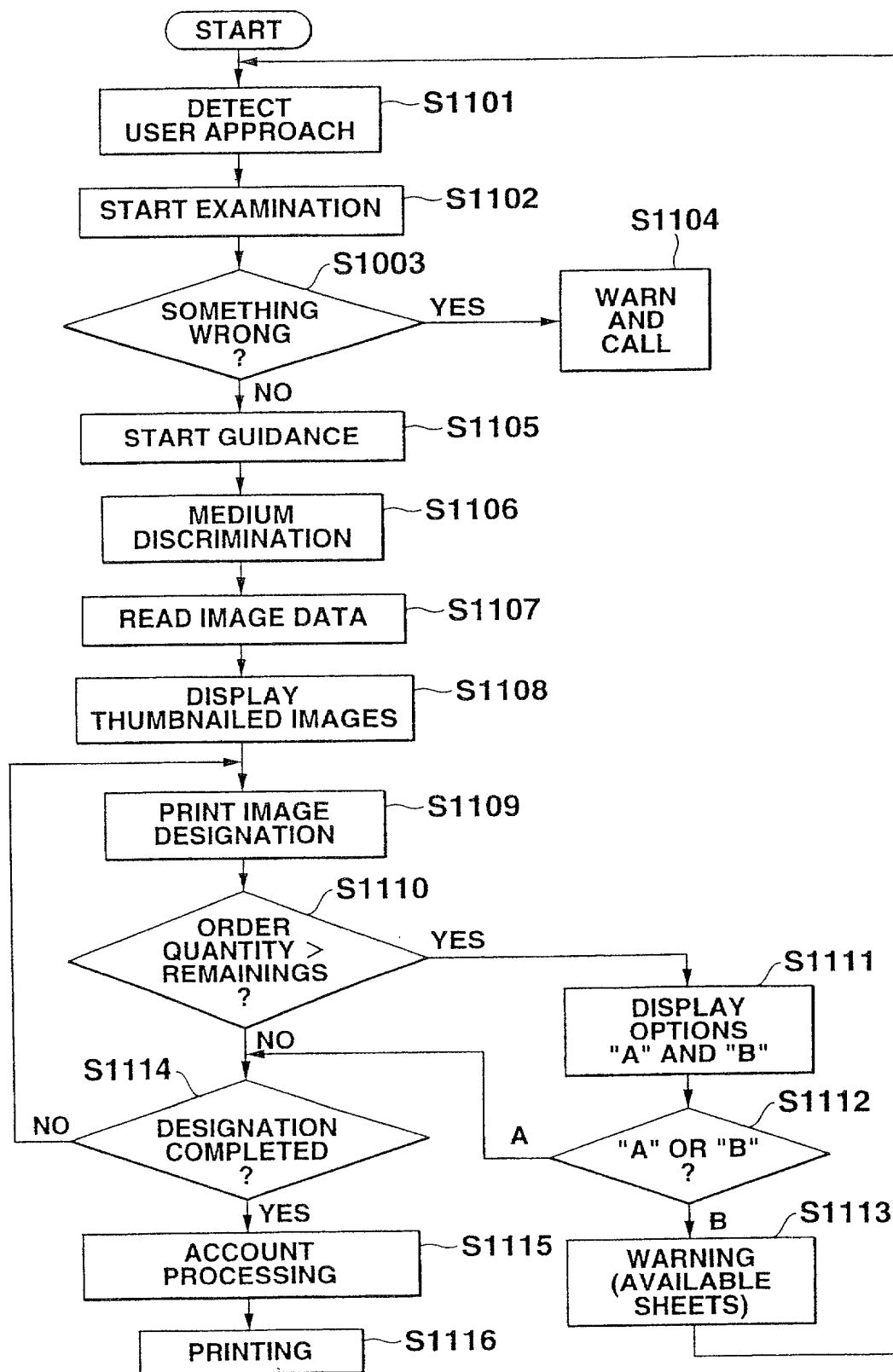


FIG.24

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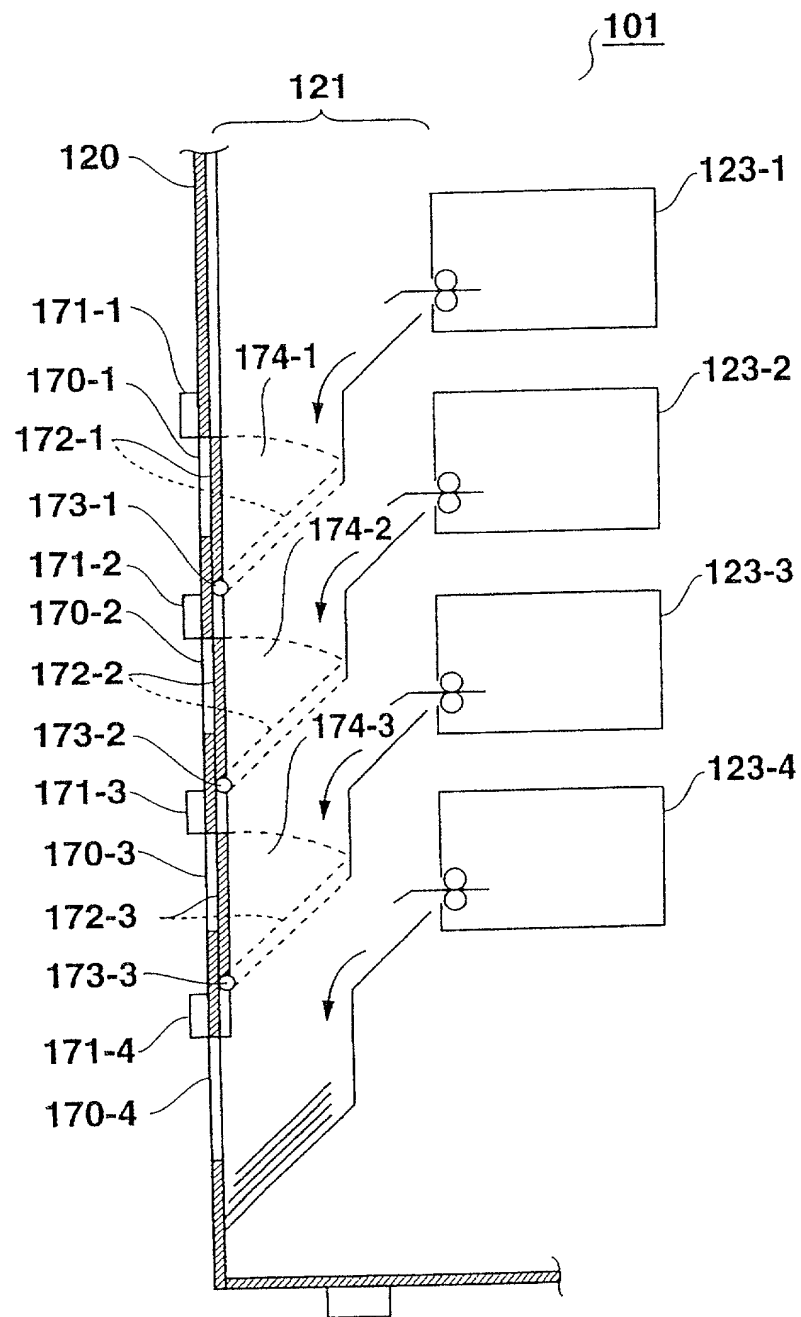


FIG.25

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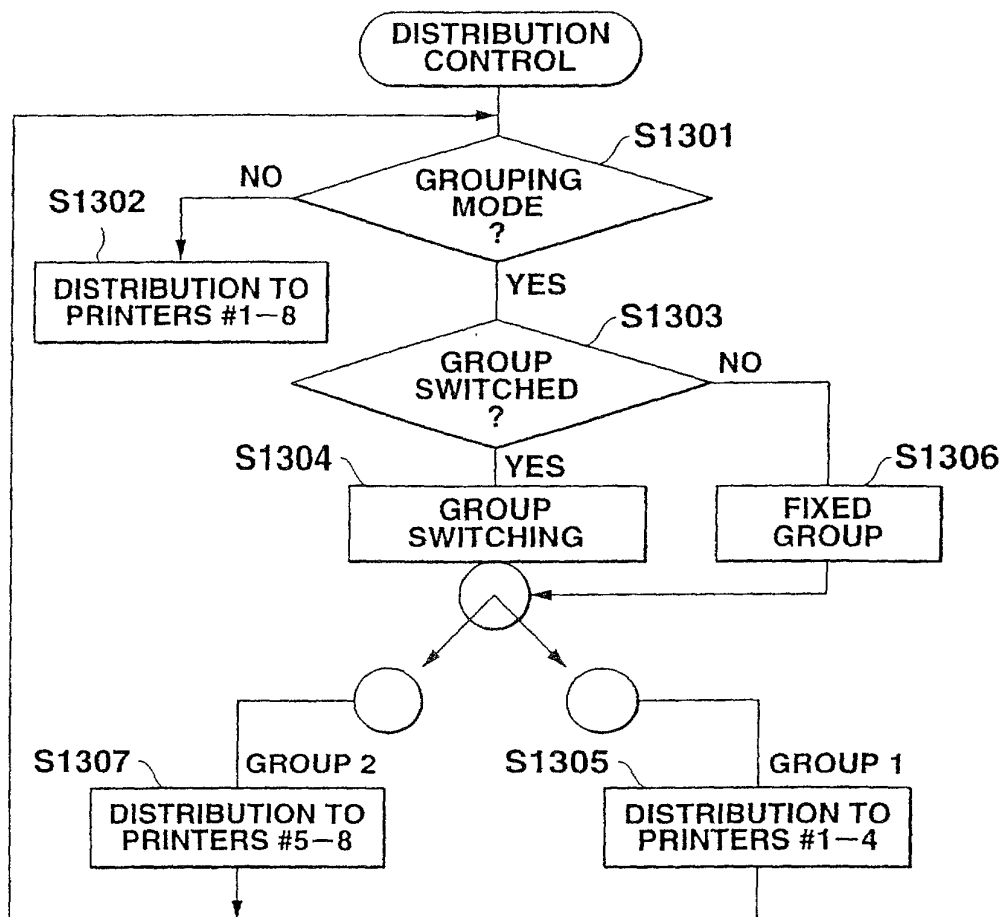


FIG.26

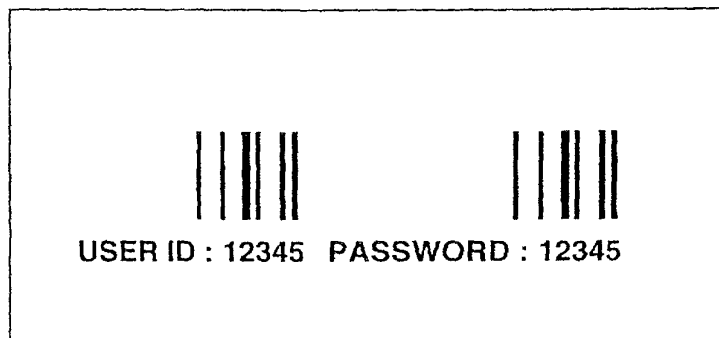


FIG.27

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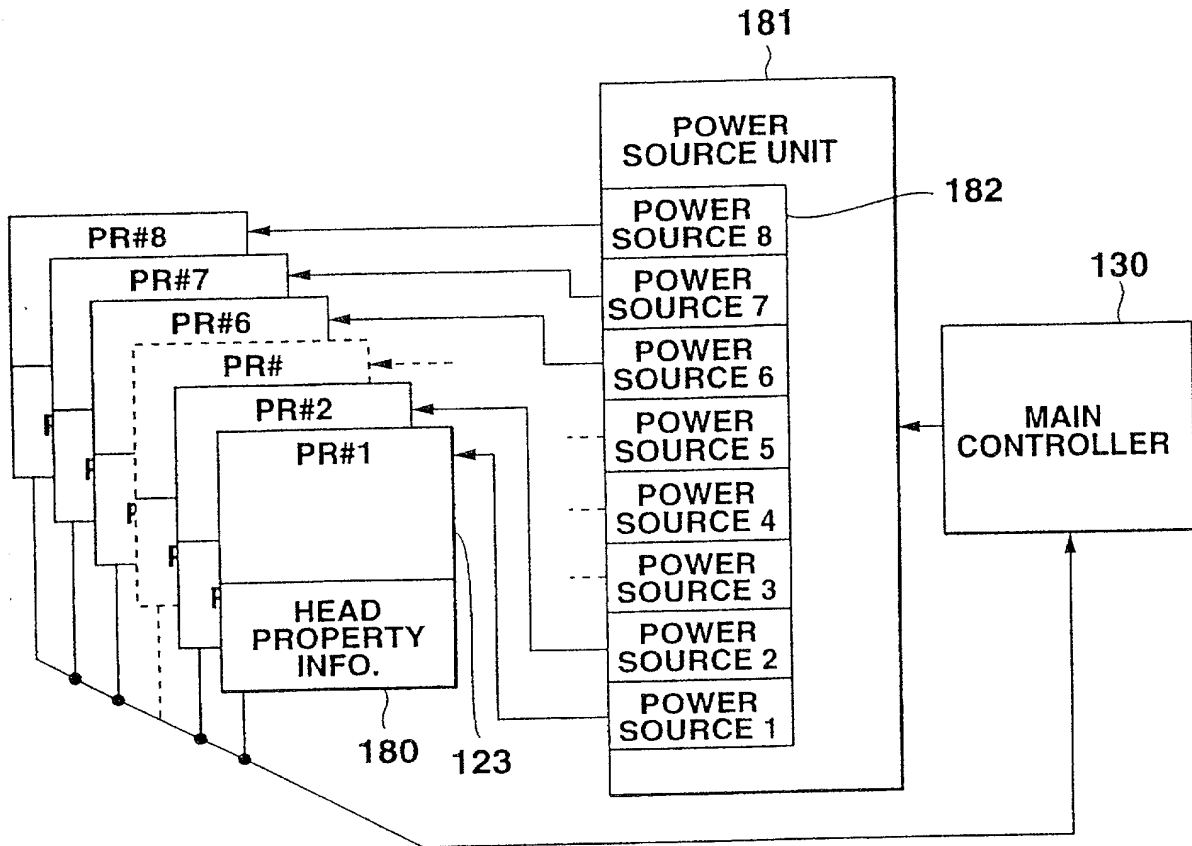


FIG.28

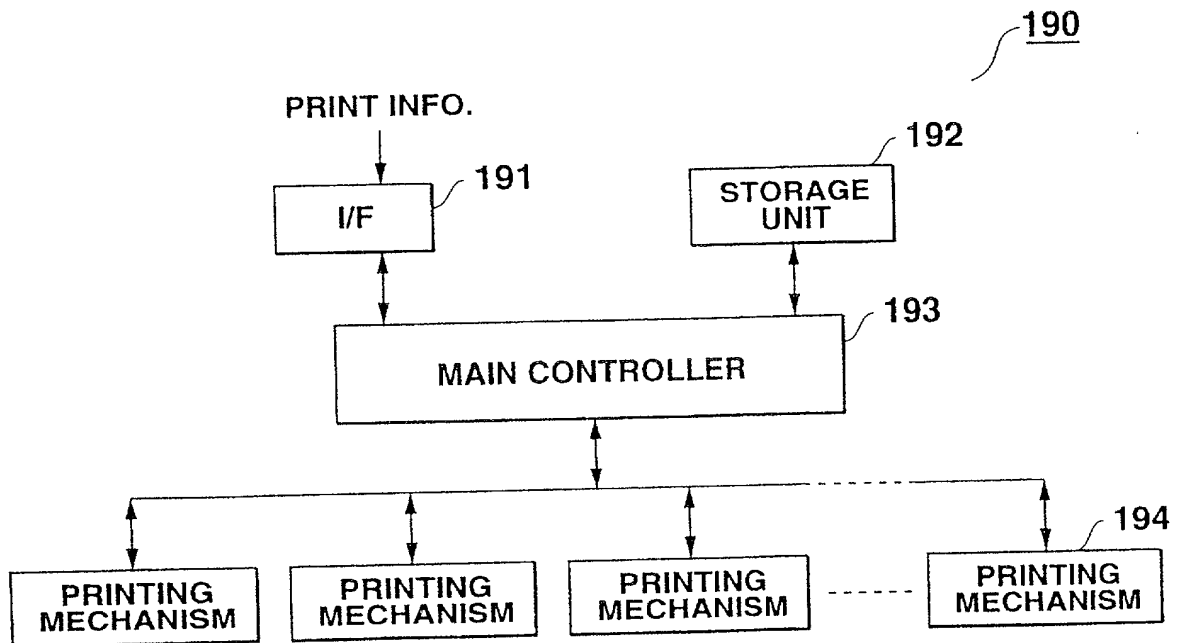


FIG.29

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

PCT Declaration and Power of Attorney (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))

PCT Application - United States Designated Office

As a below named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

PRINTING APPARATUS AND PRINTING METHOD

described and claimed in International Application number PCT/JP00/04281
and, if it was amended, as amended on

filed June 29, 2000

I have reviewed and understand the contents of said specification, including claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I claim priority benefits under 35 USC §119 of: (i) any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below; or (ii) any United States provisional application(s) listed below; and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed.

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED
JAPAN	11-182936	29, 06, 1999	yes <u>X</u> no _____
JAPAN	11-353865	14, 12, 1999	yes <u>X</u> no _____
			yes _____ no _____
			yes _____ no _____

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office connected therewith: Stephen H. Frishauf, Reg. No. 16,233; Leonard Holtz, Reg. No. 22,974; Herbert Goodman, Reg. No. 17,081; Thomas Langer, Reg. No. 27,264; Marshall J. Chick, Reg. No. 26,853; Walter J. Baum, Reg. No. 20,641; Richard S. Barth, Reg. No. 28,180; Douglas Holtz, Reg. No. 33,902; and Robert P. Michal, Reg. No. 35,614.

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INVENTOR: SIGNATURE**DATE****RESIDENCE AND POST OFFICE ADDRESS**

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